



State Mitigation Plan Review Guide

In early March 2015, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the release of the [State Mitigation Plan Review Guide](#) (“Guide”). Starting March 6, 2016, the Guide will be FEMA’s official policy on the natural hazard mitigation planning requirements at Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201, and FEMA’s interpretation of federal regulations for state hazard mitigation plans, inclusive of the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. The Guide is available from the FEMA Library (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/101659>).

State, tribal, and local governments engage in the mitigation planning process to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and establish a long-term strategy for protecting people and property in future hazards events. State mitigation plans are one of the conditions of eligibility for certain FEMA assistance, such as Public Assistance Categories C-G and Hazard Mitigation Assistance mitigation project grants. States are required to update the state mitigation plan every five years.

Guide highlights include:

- **Probability of future hazard events.** States must consider how future risk and vulnerability may be affected by changing future conditions, development patterns, and population demographics. The Guide clarifies that the probability of future hazard events must include considerations of changing future conditions, including the effects of long-term changes in weather patterns and climate on the identified hazards. States must continue to provide an
- **overview of all natural hazards that can affect the state, using maps where appropriate.**
- **Inclusive mitigation planning process.** To better reduce risk and enhance resilience, states must take a holistic approach and include not only emergency management, but also the sectors of economic development, land use and development, housing, health and social services, infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources in their planning process and mitigation program, where practicable.
- **Adoption by highest elected official.** Hazard mitigation plans must be adopted by the highest elected official or designee in the state.
- **Standard and enhanced plans.** The Guide sets forth the standard operating procedures for the submittal and review of both the standard and enhanced state mitigation plans.
- **Mitigation program consultation.** The Guide establishes a mitigation program consultation with each state to help institute active, ongoing coordination and communication on mitigation programs. FEMA will work collaboratively with each state to develop a process for the mitigation program consultation.
- **Annual validation of enhanced states.** Annually, FEMA will validate that enhanced states are maintaining a comprehensive mitigation program, effectively using funding, and remain capable of managing the increased Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding.

For more information, visit FEMA’s Mitigation Planning webpage (<http://www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning>).